

NSW Department of Education and Training Curriculum K12 Directorate

Primary Maths Connections is available as an RSS Feed and provides primary school leaders and teachers with updates and information relevant to the teaching of mathematics and numeracy in primary schools. To subscribe to this RSS Feed, go to <http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/primary/mathematics/rss/index.htm>

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Curriculum Support

The [Curriculum Support](#) website provides access to a range of mathematics resources for primary school teachers. Do some of your students experience difficulty when solving mathematics word problems? Use [Newman's prompts](#) to identify where errors may occur in students' attempts to solve written problems. Click on each of the following headings or use the links at the bottom of the webpage to find teaching ideas for addressing the first three hurdles:

- [Reading](#)
- [Comprehension](#)
- [Transformation](#)

You can also see a short video of a student being assessed using Newman's prompts at

<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/primary/mathematics/numeracy/newman/index.htm>



National curriculum

The National Curriculum Board has released the [National Mathematics Curriculum: Framing paper](#), proposing broad directions for what teachers should teach and young people should learn in the national mathematics curriculum from Kindergarten to Year 12. The paper focuses on what the content for the national mathematics curriculum might be. Assessment and pedagogy, although key considerations for any curriculum, are addressed only briefly in the paper. The Introduction (page 1) provides a summary to the arguments of the document. While it is difficult to disagree with any of these statements, teachers may be surprised to find out what is the anticipated level of support that the syllabus will provide for teachers. The level of detail is likely to be far less than that provided by the current NSW *Mathematics K-6 Syllabus, 2002*.

Interested teachers can subscribe to National Curriculum email alerts at

http://www.ncb.org.au/get_involved/subscribe/subscribe.html



Resources

- Professor Paul Cobb was a keynote presenter at the 2008 Middle years Conference. Professor Cobb spoke about numeracy and the impact of good teaching design for engaging middle years students, with a focus on the challenges students face in making the transition from “additive thinking” to the “multiplicative thinking” associated with understanding ratios, proportions and rates across the curriculum. His presentation can be accessed at <http://www.detconferences.nsw.edu.au/middleyears/keynotes.php>
- National Literacy and Numeracy Week, 2008: The Tasmanian 2008 NLNW Ambassador, Dr Jane Watson, Head of Mathematics, Faculty of Education at the University of Tasmania is renowned for her research into statistics, chance and data. [Critical Numeracy in Context](#), her video for NLNW, although intended to assist secondary Mathematics teachers by suggesting a Framework for Critical Numeracy for the classroom, is also of interest for primary teachers. It can be accessed at <http://www.nlnw.nsw.edu.au/events.htm>. Scroll down to the bottom of the web page to find the link and to download a transcript of the video.



Best Start

We are expecting 40 000 Kindergarten students in 1123 schools to take part in the *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment*, this term. In preparation, regional professional learning is being conducted to support teachers to administer the *Best Start Kindergarten Assessment* as well as to use the new software developed to generate early learning plans.

All principals and Best Start Consultants have also received a copy of the Best Start letter for parents and caregivers which describes the *Best Start Assessment* process and is available in 35 languages. These letters can be accessed from the Best Start website for school leaders:

<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/beststart/leaders.htm>

Parent guides about Literacy and Numeracy are also available following this same website link.

In 2009, schools will also benefit from the direct support from Literacy and Numeracy Leaders. The Literacy and Numeracy Leaders will contact schools to negotiate the types of support that they can provide. Guidelines are available to assist schools determine which model of support 'best fits' their particular needs.

<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/beststart/litnum.htm>

Count Me In Too



A key emphasis of *Count Me In Too* in 2009 is on the important role of students' recordings. That is, in conjunction with having students explain their reasoning and methods of solving problems, students need to record their solution methods. One way of having students record their answers using a simple scaffold is to use cardboard squares. Start by writing a horizontal sum on the board, such as $8 + 2 = 10$. Next cover the two numbers on the left hand side with pieces of cardboard so that you have $\square + \square = 10$ and ask your students what numbers could be under the cardboard. Ask your students to write down any numbers that make the sentence true. Follow up by asking if they have all of the possible answers and how they know if they have them all. As well as teaching the "friends of ten", you have students recording all of their answers, learning to work systematically, justifying their reasoning, and working with number relationships (PAS1.1), all with Stage 1 content. Changing the initial sum can create a range of problems that are also applicable to Stage 2 (e.g. $\square \times 5 = 20$).



Counting On

Following on the success of this program in previous years, learning communities of schools nominated by regions and supported by numeracy consultants are again participating in the AGQTP funded *Counting On* program, this year. School facilitators and supporting consultants are attending two days of training on 18 – 19 March and this year the training will include some sessions on lesson study as part of the APEC *Lesson Study* program.

Information and support materials for the *Counting On* program can be accessed at the following address:

<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/secondary/mathematics/numeracy/countingon/index.htm>

which also provides a link to the *Counting On* website. Please be aware that the *Counting On* website will soon be reconstructed.

Secondary teachers:



Maths Links is a monthly electronic update for mathematics faculty leaders and mathematics teachers. To receive *Maths Links*, send an email to carolyn.mcgintry@det.nsw.edu.au stating your name and school and that you would like to be placed on the *Maths Links* email group.